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1989/05/00

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BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE ROLE OF THE CONGRESS RELEASED

--I want to express my satisfaction with the strong and expanding US-PRC relationship. The President's visit to China and your visit here illustrate the good will and determination of our nations to further strengthen our ties. Our recent exchange of naval ship visits is but one important symbol of the way we have added new dimensions to our close relations.

-- Broad popular support in the US for the US-China relationship has been an important element in our ability to move forward in expanding our ties. The ability of our two governments to work cooperatively toward solutions to bilateral and international problems is important to maintain this broad popular support for our relations—especially with the Congress and among the wider American public.

--I'd like to say something more about the U.S. Congress' role, which I assume will interest you in your capacity as Chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC's National People's Congress.

--This Administration is working closely with the Congress on a broad range of foreign policy issues. Sometimes the Administration and the Congress will agree, sometimes they won't. In any event, Congress' voice is important in all aspects of foreign affairs, including China.

--For example, Congress has expressed its views on such issues as human rights in Tibet, the dangers of missile proliferation, and the Khmer Rouge role in Cambodia.

PRC DOMESTIC SCENE

-- At the moment, the world's focus has been on the fascinating events occurring within China. Scenes of the massive but peaceful demonstrations in China have been on television sets around the world. I would be greatly interested in your views of how things will develop in the days ahead.

-- It is my understanding that the NPC will convene a session of the NPC's Standing Committee in June and that important legislation may be considered that will address the role of the press, and freedom of speech and assembly. I'd be interested in your assessment of the role the NPC can play in promoting these kinds of political reforms.

RRS Date: 3-15-94

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-- SINO-SOVIET SUMMIT

-- I realize that you have been busy traveling in Canada in recent days and may not have had time to follow the Gorbachev visit as closely as you would like. Nevertheless, this is a good time to share impressions. I have recently returned from talks with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Moscow and would be happy to share my thoughts on that visit with you.

-- (Brief on Moscow Ministerial)

-- We followed Gorbachev's visit to China with interest. We welcome the restoration of normalized relations between your countries and especially the prospects this offers for finding solutions to global and regional problems through better dialogue. I would be interested in your impressions of the future of Sino-Soviet relations.

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mw
drafted:EAP/CM:MWong
cleared:EAP:RLWilliams
:EAP/CM:JSader
:EUR/SOV:SPifer
:P:JStrotz
:H:WMiele
:S/P:JPrzystup

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